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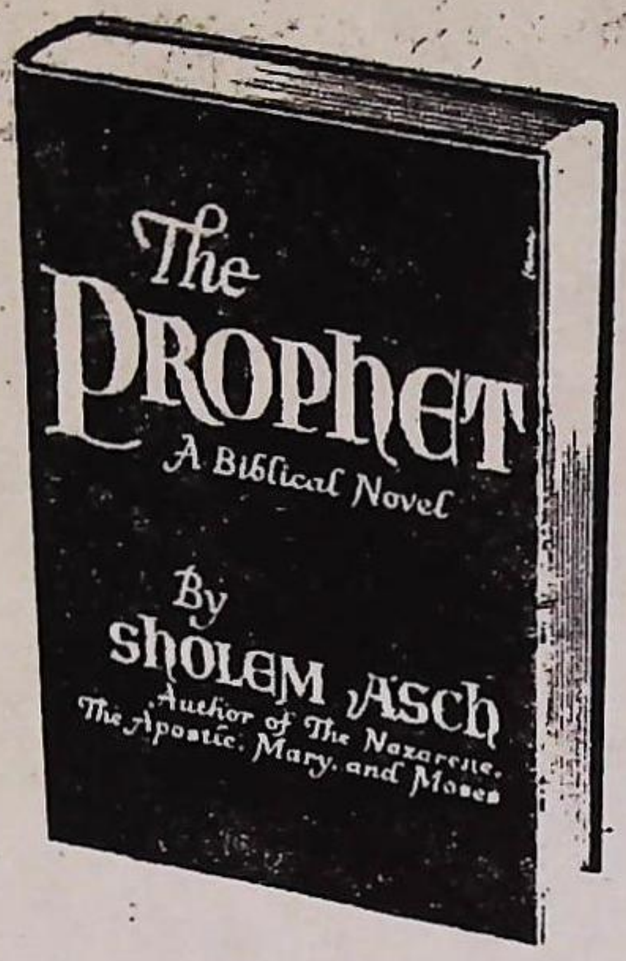
New York Times

SHOLEM ASCH



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An Elusive Old Fellow

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN. By Ralph Izzard. Illustrated. 250 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. $4.

By RAYMOND HOLDEN

THERE has been a great deal of argument about the creature known as the "Abominable Snowman." For nearly seventy years there have been reports of the existence of an unknown animal in the upper valleys of Nepal and Tibet. Natives of the region have seen it and have described it with striking unanimity; its footprints have been photographed. To date, however, it has escaped all attempts at capture and has remained unobserved by scientists.

Mr. Izzard, a British journalist who made an heroic attempt against unfair opposition to cover for The London Daily Mail the successful Mount Everest expedition of 1953, became so interested in the Snowman or "Yeti," as the beast seems to be known in its own country, that he persuaded his paper to send out an expedition.

The expedition—well-manned, well-organized and well-equipped—spent five months in the field, and, while it did not find what it was looking for, it did produce much valuable evidence. As a result, it is now possible to believe that the Yeti does exist, that he is neither a langur monkey as has been claimed nor a red bear as has been suggested, but a creature new to science that lives on insects, mouse-rabbits and other small mammals, is about the size of a 14-year-old boy, sometimes walks erect and sometimes on all fours, has no tail and is covered with reddish brown hair.

Mr. Izzard has told a fascinating story of his exciting months among the high valleys and passes of northeastern Nepal. His confidence in the existence of the Yeti does not lead him to exaggeration and unwarranted assumption. He says that he is sure that the Yeti will be found. If and when it is and it becomes the property of the taxonomists and zoologists instead of the plaything of the imagination, it is hoped that its fascination for the layman will remain unimpaired.

Mr. Holden is a member of the American Society of Mammalogists.

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—HAROLD C. GARDINER, S.J., An

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The New Yorker

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subhuman months in the forecastle of a ravaged Norwegian tramp in the West African trade. Its materials are squalor ("Cockroaches, grey with layers of harmless D.D.T., scuttled in the corners"), drunkenness ("The support of the wheel gone, he [the helmsman] took but one step, then fell heavily to the floor"), and, above all, the communicability of degradation ("Then Dominique looked at me . . . and asked the same unspoken question. But I stared back with the same brutal, gimlet eyes and refused him; and my denial broke his spirit"), but Mr. Cross has managed by the magic of art to transmute these horrors into a portrait of nightmarish beauty.

THE NORTH REPORTS THE CIVIL WAR, by J. Cutler Andrews (University of Pittsburgh Press). An interesting, if specialized, study of the role played by Northern newspapers in the Civil War. American journalism, a pretty sleepy proposition during the first half of the nineteenth century, came of age during the war. The recently broadened uses of the telegraph made fast transmission of

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encouraged to do so by the whites; in many other respects, the two races lived in relaxed intimacy. Why, then, the appearance, as late as the middle eighteen-nineties, of this vicious and seemingly irrational extremism? Professor Woodward seeks the answer in this quietly reasoned, logical, and humane study, and extends his argument to cover the whole subject of race relations in the United States. An important book.

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN, by Ralph Izzard (Doubleday). The term "abominable snowman" is a picturesque English rendering of the Tibetan "*yeti*," which refers to a creature of the Himalayan highlands—"a smallish, squat animal, about the size of a fourteen-year-old boy; covered with stiff, bristly hair, reddish brown and black in colour, with a flat face like a monkey, a rather pointed head, and no tail . . . normally walking on two legs man-like." This book is a lively account of a serious scientific expedition—inspired by the author, a British journalist, and sponsored by his employ-

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Sept.10,1955

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er, the London *Daily Mail*—that spent the winter and early spring of 1954 in search of that curious beast. Although the expedition failed to capture, or even glimpse, a *yeti*, it managed, in the opinion of Mr. Izzard and the several reputable scientists who accompanied him, to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that such an animal does exist. It also gave him the substance of a delightfully tantalizing book. Photographs.

CROMWELL'S GENERALS, by Maurice Ashley (St. Martin's). A curious potpourri of a book, part political history, part multiple biography, part military reporting. Cromwell's generals were a fantastic bunch, from Thomas Harrison, who sported a scarlet coat trimmed with gold and silver lace and covered with tinsel, to George Monk, who married his mistress, the daughter of one of the five women barbers of Drury Lane, and was "more fearful of her than of an army." Mr. Ashley is full of opinions as to what should have been done in Parliament or in the field, and American readers will be interested to note that refighting the Civil War is a British sport, too. Illustrations.

Robin Chancellor (Doubleday). Greco was one of the most poignant elusive, and evocative artists of time. A Greek who studied in Ita and then moved to Spain, he w perhaps the first painter to creat truly personal style, quite remov from national influences, and the up and downs of his career, both finan cially and artistically, have been echoed subsequently in the ups and downs of his position in popular esteem. He is now in high favor, b the stubborn fact is that very little known about his life as a whole, an practically nothing about its motiva tions in its critical phases. Becau of this, and with the best will in th world, Mme. Vallentin is forced t do a good deal of scurrying aroun for facts of one sort or another fill in the gaps. The result is a boo in which the background threate sometimes to overshadow its protag onist. Even the background, though with its glimpses of the life of th times, is interesting, and while th book adds nothing to our knowledg of El Greco's career, it still brings subtle and refined mind to bear its subject. An extremely valu